

Mara Bartenstein
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Wethersfield, CT. 06109

February 15, 2013

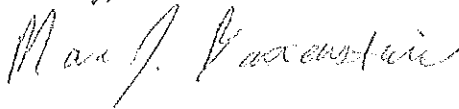
Appropriations Committee Testimony
Legislative Office Building, Room 2702
Hartford, CT 06105 1591

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a recent graduate of the STRIVE program in Hartford, CT. I believe that the work simulated environment that STRIVE has offered me has been a successful addition to my skills as a recent paralegal graduate. Since being released from York Correctional facility, I believe STRIVE has helped me to become a more productive member of society. I have acquired more responsibility and wise insight to my work ethic. The staff here has been enthusiastic and will be memorable in my everyday life. I do believe you should invest more in this program as it has helped me in my ability to search for work. Also, it has reminded me how important it is to complete a job that you have started.

I want to say thank you again, because without the funding provided by the State of Connecticut, I would not have had this important opportunity. Please keep this important program in Connecticut's budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mara J. Bartenstein". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, stylized 'M' and 'B'.

Mara Bartenstein